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perfections and leave out of sight the merits and virtues. It may be human, both in England and America, to criticise and find fault in this narrow, selfish way, but it is not manly or noble. Such scolding and petulance and answering-back belong to an age of ignorance and childishness, and are unworthy of men of our day.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Dr. B. F. Trueblood, Secretary of the American Peace Society, sailed for Europe on the steamship "Paris" from New York on the 15th of August. He intended, after stopping a day or so in London, to cross to Antwerp in time for the Peace Congress which opened there on the 29th ult. and was to continue four days. He purposes while on the Continent, in addition to looking in on the Exposition at Antwerp, to make a visit to Brussels and the battlefield of Waterloo. At the close of the Congress at Antwerp he will go to The Hague in Holland in order to be present at the meeting of the Interparliamentary Peace Conference which convenes there on the 3d of September and continues for three days. He will be absent from home for five or six weeks.

Corea, the seat of the war between China and Japan, is a peninsula lying between the 122d and the 130th degrees of east longitude and the 34th and 43d parallels of latitude. It is a mountainous country, somewhat resembling Italy, and is well supplied with rivers. In extent, it is about three times as large as Scotland, and contains a population of about ten millions. The climate is not a bad one, except that it is very damp. The principal occupation of the people is agriculture, rice being exported in large quantities.

The government of the country is an absolute despotism. The King, though nominally subject to China, has absolute authority over his own subjects, extending even to the power of life and death. The present dynasty has been in power for about five hundred years. The corruption and extortion of the Government and its officials have greatly impoverished the country. A standing army of about six thousand soldiers, armed with modern rifles, and to some extent under the direction of an American adviser, is stationed at Seoul, the capital.

The claims of both China and Japan to rights in the peninsula are very ancient. Japan obtained possession there as early as the third century of our era, and has sometimes had possession of nearly the whole of the country. But her authority has been less than that of Japan. The rights of the Coreans themselves have been little respected. Like Poland and the Rhine provinces, Corea has been the football of contending nations. If England, the United States and other Western nations interfere at all in the present contention, they ought to

insist that both China and Japan withdraw entirely, and also guarantee the independence of Corea. This would do more to promote peace in the future than any other course which is now conceivable. They might then very properly insist on certain reforms in the Corean government. An amicable settlement of the present conflict, which should leave China and Japan in Corea with the same relations to each other that they now hold, would be of little value hereafter.

Though hostilities had broken out when our last number went to press, war was not actually declared till the first of August. Japan took the offensive and seems to have been the chief offender in bringing on the war. The Emperor of China accepted the declaration of war, throwing the blame for the bloodshed upon the Japanese, and ordering his commanders to "root these pestilential Japanese from their lairs." It has been difficult to get accurate information as to the course of hostilities. So far the advantage, in the naval skirmishes more particularly, has been on the side of Japan whose preparations for war were more complete than those of China. The contests which have taken place are to be considered as nothing more than skirmishes preparatory to what it is generally thought will be a long war. Both nations seem to be thoroughly aroused to bitter animosity and preparations for the conflict are being pushed on both sides.

There is something monstrous, from a moral point of view, in the cool, calculating way in which many of the newspapers speak of the slaughter of Chinese and Japanese, now that war has been declared, as if it were nothing more than a question of cutting down so many trees or of slicing up so many potatoes. When a British war-ship was accidentally sunk, a little while ago, carrying down over four hundred men, the whole civilized world was shocked and moved to expressions of apparently intense sympathy. But now war has been declared, and the Kow Shung is blown up with torpedoes and goes to the bottom with a thousand struggling Chinamen, and every eye of Christendom is dry! War, sacred, glorious, civilizing, God-sent war, makes everything and anything right!

One serious disaster that will come from the war in the East will be the interruption or breaking up of mission work in both China and Japan. The conversion of men to Christ has always been found to be nearly impossible in time of war. The angry passions aroused are incompatible with the spirit required in one who yields himself up to the guidance of the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. The bitterness of feeling left behind after the war shall be over will make the work of the missionaries much more difficult for many years to come. For the Gospel's sake may the war be short.

The United States authorities ought not to allow the makers of arms in this country to supply either the Chi-

nese or the Japanese or both with the munitions of war. It is a clear violation of neutrality as that is now understood by the highest authorities on international law. It is well known that agents from those countries have been placing orders for arms in this country. Though this has been done with a pretence of secrecy, the secret is an open one. Even if it were not a violation of the obligations of a neutral power, the government ought not to allow it for another and still better reason. Every ship load of arms which goes from our shores will prolong the war and occasion the loss of a greater number of lives. Every maker of arms who sells his wares to China and Japan at this time is a shedder of Chinese and Japanese blood. Let us keep our hands clean of the sin.

The *British Workman* for the present month contains an illustrated article on "The Abolition of War," by Rev. J. P. Gladstone, prepared at the special request of the Editor. The immense sphere of influence which this journal has possessed for nearly half a century will, at a time like the present, cause an article appearing in its pages to render a unique service to the cause of peace. A special edition of the number containing the article has been printed for circulation among workingmen and several large employers of labor have taken copies for distribution. We quote one passage:

"The chief evil of war, as Dr. Channing has said, 'is not that man is slain, but that he is slain, spoiled, crushed, by the cruelty, the injustice, the treachery, the murderous hand of man. The evil is *moral* evil; war is the concentration of all human crimes. Under its standard gather violence, rage, fraud, rapacity, perfidy, and lust. If it only slew man it would do little. It turns man into a beast of prey.' He rightly adds that 'a more fearful hell in any region of the universe, than a battlefield, cannot well be conceived. There the fiends hold their revels.' This is no exaggerated language, for a great admirer of General Skobeloff described him after battle, when rage was still in his face and the smoke and dust still on his person, as a demon rather than a man. The heart shudders to think of the storms of passion which rage over a field of battle where men mow each other down like grass."

The Young Men's Association of the Amity Baptist Church of New York has passed the following resolutions, which condense a good deal of history and of good will into a small space:

WHEREAS, The greatest outcome of the Pan-American Congress was the agreement to substitute arbitration for militarism between American Nations, and

WHEREAS, This agreement was by the instructions of the Congress sent through the State Department of the United States government to the nations of the earth, with an invitation to them to join in this movement for world-wide peace through arbitration that even the preparation for war might cease; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of Switzerland at once signified its desire to join in this agreement, and on a later date the Parliament of Great Britain recorded the adhesion of that nation by unanimous vote; and

WHEREAS, At a meeting of representatives of Liberty organizations of the world, held at Independence Hall, a flag to symbolize this movement was adopted, namely: the flag of any Nation in a border of white, signifying that the Nation adopts peaceful methods in place of militarism for the settlement of national differences; and

WHEREAS, In the carrying out of this great intention the Nations were requested by the Universal Peace Union to send their flag in the border of white to the World's Exhibition at Chicago; and

WHEREAS, The flags so sent were recognized by the United States National Commissioners with a diploma; and

WHEREAS, Every great cause, in order that it may reach the largest success, must have a symbol around which it can organize, and the white-bordered flag most fittingly expresses the World's desire to-day for peace, good-will and brotherhood; and

WHEREAS, The co-operation of educational forces, as outlined by the International Universities Committee, lately organized at Paris, is all important; therefore,

RESOLVED, That this Association and Assembly recommends that by the side of the National standard (the flag of the constitution) shall be unfurled the banner with even more far-reaching purpose, the white-bordered flag, and that the same shall be adopted by every school, college and university in our own land as their own special standard, to float together with our National banner at the celebrations of patriotic or Liberty events as a true object lesson, potent and expressive of Liberty and Peace.

RESOLVED, That we congratulate the present generation as having produced the great memorial of the Columbian year, the Columbian Liberty Bell, with its texts "Glory to God," "Proclaim Liberty," and "Love one another," which typifies and voices the same cause as the white-bordered flag.

RESOLVED, That a copy of these Resolutions be sent to the Columbian Bell Committee and the various Peace Societies of the world.

The peace cause in France has lost an earnest and active worker and faithful friend by the death of Mr. Hippolyte Destrem. He was the founder of "The League of Social Progress through Peace, Arbitration and Federation," and had been for some years before his death president of the "Société de la Paix Perpétuelle par la Justice Internationale." He was also a member of "The International League of Peace and Liberty," and of the "French Society for International Arbitration."

In the House of Representatives action has been deferred on the bill providing for an arbitration treaty between the United States and Great Britain for a period of twenty-five years. It would seem that the delay portends no good for the measure, but there is still room for hope that it may be reported favorably in the autumn.

We are very much surprised to learn that the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives has made an unfavorable report on Dr. Everett's bill providing for the naturalization of the Japanese. We have not seen the reasons which they have allowed to induce them to take this course, but they are not difficult to imagine. It is difficult to see what justifiable ground can be found for discrimination against people of any nation or of any color who wish to become citizens of the United States and who are capable of fulfilling the requisite conditions and willing to perform the duties of citizenship. We hope that Mr. Everett will continue to press, whenever occasion offers, the rights of the Japanese to the same privileges in the United States as are open to those coming from any other nation.

The "Arbitration Alliance of British Christians," of which Dr. W. E. Darby, 47 New Broad Street, London, E. C., is Honorary Secretary, an outgrowth of the Ecclesiastical Peace Conference movement originated by Dr. W. A. Campbell, Richmond Va., after long and careful consideration, has decided that the moment is opportune for securing an expression of opinion from the nation as to the duty of placing a check upon the continuous growth of armaments. The following is the text of the proposed National Memorial, which it is expected will be signed by representatives of every church, every labor union, and every municipality, as well as by all the most influential men and women in England:—

"The continuous and unchecked growth of European armaments has now reached a point which necessitates some concerted action to secure relief. The pressure of military and naval expenditure threatens States with bankruptcy, cripples the industries and impoverishes the homes of the people, and diverts to wasteful preparation for slaughter, funds that would otherwise be available for purposes of social amelioration and reform.

"This ruinous rivalry in armaments is the inevitable, although deplorable, result of the absence of any international understanding. It can only be arrested by an international agreement.

"We would, therefore, respectfully but earnestly suggest, that communications should be opened with the European Powers, in order to ascertain whether it may not be possible, as a first step towards arresting the further growth of national armaments, and reducing burdens already almost intolerable, to secure a common and general agreement that, until the close of the century, no State will sanction any increase of its military and naval expenditure, beyond the maximum of the estimates of the present year."

It will be seen that the proposal is strictly limited to that which is practical and immediate. It is understood that the memorial is regarded with favor in the highest quarters, and that no step has been taken in this matter without due consultation with those who are in a position to know how things stand in regard to European politics.

The attention of the commissioners appointed by Presi-

dent Cleveland to investigate the Pullman Strike was especially called to the Massachusetts Arbitration law. Prof. Bemis, of Chicago University commended the law as one worthy to be adopted elsewhere in this country. An explanation of the provisions of this law and its workings since 1889, the year of its adoption, are given in a paper prepared by Charles H. Walcott, president of the Massachusetts State Board of Arbitration, and published in full in the report of the proceedings of the Chicago Peace Congress.

How rapidly the scene changes. Two months ago the newspapers were full of the Coxey Army movements. A little note in an inconspicuous place in the paper telling of arrests from among those left near Washington or of free transportation furnished that they may return to their homes awake but little interest and is all that is now heard of the "greatest piece of news" of that date. The Pullman strike so prominent one month ago is now left pretty much to itself with only an occasional note to inform the public of a commission determined to investigate both sides of the question to the very bottom; of workers turned into the streets and others being imported to fill their places. The past month industrial interest has centered in the new picture of Fall River and New Bedford mill hands out for a month on a voluntary vacation. They seem to have reason to resist a further reduction of wages, as the basis upon which they were paid assures only a moderate compensation.

EVENTS OF THE MONTH.

After more than two weeks of conference on the tariff bill, during which the two Houses of Congress insisted each that its own bill should be passed or nothing, on the 13th ult. the House by a vote of 182 to 105 passed the Senate bill without change. The bill is a moderate protection measure, and it is a great relief to the business men of the country to have the subject settled for the present. It is understood that the President, though strongly opposed to the Senate measure, will allow the bill to become law without signing it, this being in his judgment better than to have nothing done at this session of Congress. The House, immediately after voting in favor of The Senate bill, passed separate bills putting coal, iron ore, barbed wire and sugar on the free list. The Senate is not expected to pass any of these bills, but they are to be buried in the finance committee. One knows not which way to draw his mouth on reading of the profound ways of these Washington legislators.

On the 7th of August a letter from President Dole was received at the State Department at Washington announcing formally the creation of the new Republic of Hawaii. Secretary Gresham at once sent a reply recognizing the